

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

No. 107

MAY, 1930.

Price 4d.

THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

As we go to press local organisations and co-ordinating bodies who were engaged in the *Herald* Campaign are being invited to send in their vouchers with a view to payment for the new readers secured through them. The generous settlement terms which have been announced by the *Daily Herald* directorate will be welcome news to many struggling Parties, and the assistance which their funds will receive should prove an encouragement to renew efforts on behalf of the paper.

The settlement terms, too, are particularly generous to the helpers and there is a bond of honour in this matter which should impel all concerned to see that every reader secured is recouped with a view to ensuring that he still takes his *Daily Herald*. No leakages ought to be allowed, and where from one cause and another a reader who has been paid for is not still taking the paper the obligation of securing yet another one in his place ought to be honourably observed.

From all quarters reports reach us of the increased interest in Local Party affairs which have resulted from the increased circulation, and the improvement in the paper. The *Daily Herald* is indeed a tremendous political force and ally, and the Local Party which neglects to take the fullest advantage of this is sinning against its own interests. A big *Daily Herald* circulation in any constituency is a sure guarantee of local success. Indeed no better omen for success will be anywhere found.

"Now for the second Million" is the new slogan and coined we understand by Mr. J. S. Middleton, the Acting Secretary of the Party. The achievement of the second million would be the surest possible security for a longer life to the present Government. A two million circulation would without a doubt secure for us a positive majority, and what this means by way of achieving Labour's own policy, and incident-

ally answering the critics in our own ranks, may be left to the simplest imagination. In the North another campaign on somewhat similar lines to the last is now in full swing by way of heralding and securing a big new sale for the northern edition. In the South it now depends on the good offices and goodwill of every Labour man and woman to do everything possible to boost the paper, and add to its circulation. This can be done intensively among the membership. If we may coin a slogan ourselves it would be "Every member a *Herald* reader and every *Herald* reader a member." Much can also be done by announcements at meetings — not the half-hearted and casual mention of past days, but a full-blooded boost based on the quality and value of the paper itself. Incidentally, a good deal more could be done to make the paper the medium of Party announcements. The *Daily Herald* is the official paper and so it is there one should be able to find all the notices of meetings and conferences, special efforts and so forth, and the other "wants" of both Party and individuals. Labour members of public bodies should also be alive to the fact that public announcements of Councils and Corporations will secure the best circulation in the *Daily Herald*. As it is usual to advertise in more than one paper, the *Daily Herald* should certainly be among those chosen for such announcements.

Particulars of the new Study Courses for Labour Agents and would-be agents are now in the hands of local secretaries. The present Study and Examination Scheme has been prepared under the authority of the National Executive and after consultation with the representatives of the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents. It is intended for the services of

(1) Agents and Organisers of the Party desiring to revise their

knowledge of Election Law and Administration by taking the Courses and to qualify for a Certificate by Examination.

- (2) Persons in the Party who are desirous of becoming Agents and who by taking the courses and qualifying by examination for the certificate may equip themselves for competent service as future Agents.
- (3) Persons in the Party who, by taking some of the Courses, desire to make themselves more efficient as Officials, especially for the conduct of Local Elections.

The Scheme is arranged on a correspondence basis and each month a set of loose leaf notes and folios are to be posted to each enrolled person. The first monthly set is in our hands and this consists of a folio of instructions regarding the Course, a folio of interpretations, a synopsis of the Ballot Act, a digest of the Representation of the People Acts, and study papers for four weeks. These documents are followed by a series of questions and some hints regarding same.

A number of our readers have written us stating their desire to undertake this course, and in some cases asking to be enrolled. Correspondence relating to the Scheme should be addressed to the Registrar of Study Courses, c/o The Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1. A prospectus will be sent to applicants and this contains a form for enrolments. The inclusive fee for the Courses and Examination is 10/6 and this fee covers the complete set of notes and postages. There is besides a special facility for obtaining text-books on easy terms.

We should like to talk seriously this month to some of our Local Parties concerning their relationship with licensed Labour clubs. The question whether any Local Movement shall establish or run a club is always one for purely local decision and there is no express national encouragement or discouragement in the matter. Opinions differ widely regarding Labour Clubs and what would prove the ruin of the Movement in one area sometimes succeeds extraordinarily well in another. Therefore regarding the general desirability of licensed clubs we shall not attempt generalisation. But

a number of incidents which have come to our notice lately impel us to write about what we have seen and to call to order the offenders.

We believe the vast majority of Labour Clubs are well conducted. But whether or no it is desirable that the Labour Club and the Labour Party should be distinct entities, and there should be no possibility of a stranger confusing one with the other. The circumstances attending the establishment of some clubs, and the conduct of Party business thereat, leaves considerable doubt however as to where the business of the club ends and the business of the Party begins. We know of instances where the club secretary and the Party secretary is the same person and all business is conducted from the same office. This, to say the least, is undesirable, and at the time of an election is positively dangerous. But when to this complaint can be added the further one that no person can visit the Party Secretary's office except through the drinking part of the premises we feel it time to utter a protest.

In other places we have visited Party business is conducted in rooms where

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the sale of liquor is permitted. Sometimes no sale is permitted during a meeting but there are clubs where orders are taken and executed during meetings and bar tenders appear for custom at regular intervals. We have even been present at meetings interrupted by the time-honoured signal for closing time.

These are matters which we consider alien to the prevailing sense of responsibility in the Party. But if they were the worst offences we perhaps should not utter our protest. Just, however, as in the clubs of other Parties, abuses creep in. Is it an "abuse" if one cannot attend meetings except through rows of drinking men and women? Opinions may differ, but we think it is. We make no apology for stating bald facts. If they are not to be discussed and exposed there will be no change in these customs.

Briefly put, what we require is that the Local Party Secretary's office or headquarters should in every case be approachable other than through licensed premises. In most cases a small structural alteration will effect this and the result would be the removal of a discouragement to many persons to do business with the Party. It is of course somewhat more difficult to effect alterations that would ensure that all meeting rooms had a separate entrance. But we feel it is an outrage for any club to assume that the thirst of our members is so insistent that they cannot do without drinks being served while a meeting is in progress. In most cases, too, we are sure that a proper rule, and more efficient stewarding, could ensure halls and passage ways to meeting rooms being free or comparatively so from drinking. If meetings must be held in our licensed premises it is at least only decent that those who have a distaste for drink should not be offended or deterred from attending by customs much more in keeping with common public houses than well-conducted clubs. There is the further point that some Parties and Labour Clubs are flagrantly breaking the law by using such premises as Committee Rooms and meeting places in local elections. We know it is claimed that the other side do this also, but we have yet to learn that two blacks make one white or to hear any satisfactory defence of this defiance of the law.

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A PROGRAMME OF ELECTORAL REFORM

By THE EDITOR (*Conclusion*).

This long catalogue of reforms, most of them urgent and long overdue, may now be brought to an end. The list of changes that could be desired might even yet be added to, but in these articles we have not sought to advocate change for the sake of change, but merely to put forth proposals on matters where experience has disclosed injustice or abuse.

These articles will have served their purpose if they have helped to crystallise the views and concentrated the attention of Labour men and women on the unsatisfactory electoral system of the present day. That we are a long way from the day when a far-reaching measure will adjust these defects may as well be admitted, but Rome was not built in a day, nor are decisions and determinations made until evidence has been adduced. We trust our articles have been convincing in this respect.

Summary of Proposals.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION: Opposed.

SECOND BALLOT AND ALTERNATIVE VOTE: Opposed.

REFERENDUM: Repeal of present application to town polls proposed.

REFERENDUM: Enquiry favoured as to effect of referendum on certain classes of measures introduced in late life of any Parliament.

SEPARATE UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION: Abolition.

PLURAL VOTING: Abolition.

CODIFICATION OF LAWS AFFECTING FRANCHISE AND MACHINERY OF ELECTIONS: Proposed.

ASSIMILATION OF PROCEDURE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: Proposed.

VOTERS' QUALIFICATION: Three months' residence qualification proposed, as a universal franchise for Parliamentary and Local Government purposes.

PROPERTY AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS: Abolition.

REGISTRATION: Half-yearly register proposed or continuous system of registration.

QUALIFICATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES: Abolition of present dissimilarities proposed,

the qualification urged being twelve months' residence or registration as elector in the area.

DISQUALIFICATIONS: Uniformity proposed for all Local Governing bodies.

RETURNING OFFICER: Uniformity of authority and function proposed for all classes of elections, including power of casting vote. Compulsion to transact all business in a Parliamentary election within the constituency.

NOMINATIONS: Similarity of form and procedure as far as practicable. Assentors held unnecessary.

PROCEDURE ON OBJECTIONS TO NOMINATIONS: To be provided for and uniform in all elections. Returning Officer to have power to decide on qualification, subject to appeal to County Court Judge.

TIMES FOR ELECTIONS AND OFFICIAL PROCEDURE: To be uniform. Calculations of time to be the same for all purposes.

1st May suggested as date for Municipal and all other Local Government Elections.

CASUAL VACANCIES: Uniformity required regarding same.

PARLIAMENTARY BY - ELECTIONS: Not to be held within specified period of dissolution.

EXTENSION OF POLLING HOURS ACT: To apply in all elections.

PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, 1908: To apply to all elections.

PROVISION FOR USE OF SCHOOLS AT PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: To be amended and strengthened. Use of Schools to apply in all elections.

PROVISION OF POLLING STATIONS: Candidates dissatisfied with provision and distribution to have right of appeal to County Court Judge. The latter to have power to amend arrangements. In Rural Districts one station at least for every two hundred and fifty electors.

EXTENSION OF POLLING BY POST AND TRAVELLING POLLING STATIONS: Not favoured. Absent voters to have power of voting at a Parliamentary Election at any station in the country as in Australia. Delay in declaration involved.

POLLING AGENTS: Uniformity as to number allowed.

MACHINE VOTING: Introduction of machines for voting and counting advocated.

PENDING INTRODUCTION OF MACHINES: Definite instructions as to method of counting.

SECRECY: Penalty on Presiding Officer proposed if marking of paper is observable.

COUNTING AGENTS: Number allowed not to be at discretion of Returning Officer. Should be fixed by statute on basis of one candidate's agent to two official counters. Counting to take place *under observation* (not merely presence of candidates' agents).

RECOUNTS: Candidates to have right of recount who show to satisfaction of R.O. reasonable ground to doubt the accuracy of the count.

SCRUTINY: Candidates to have statutory right to demand scrutiny where total of spoilt or tendered votes exceeds the majority by which any successful candidate would otherwise be declared elected.

CUSTODY OF BALLOT BOXES OR MACHINES: To be provided for.

ELECTION PETITIONS: Cost of petitions to be charged on public funds after petitioner proves a *prima facie* case. Petitions to be heard on circuit. Local Government petitions to be heard in County Court.

PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS ON LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES: Proposed for all bodies.

ABOLITION OF ALDERMEN ON BOROUGH COUNCILS, COUNTY COUNCILS, AND METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCILS: Proposed.

ASSIMILATION OF CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION IN LONDON GOVERNMENT: Proposed.

COMPULSORY PUBLICITY OF DETAILED BALANCE SHEETS BY POLITICAL ORGANISATIONS: Official form of return to be prescribed.

CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES: To be the same as far as practicable for all classes of elections.

RETURN OF ELECTION EXPENSES: Proposed in all elections with simplified form for local government elections.

PAYMENT OF ELECTION EXPENSES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS: To be through named agent if agent appointed.

LIMIT OF EXPENDITURE: To be fixed for all elections.

REDUCTION OF PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SCALE: Proposed.

NUMBER OF PAID CLERKS, MESSENGERS, ETC.: Number at present allowable to be reduced.

CANDIDATES' PERSONAL EXPENSES: Reduction proposed with maximum of £50.

BILLPOSTING: Prohibition of, other than candidate's address.

BILL DISTRIBUTORS: Payment of to be legalised.

PURCHASE OF PARTY FAVOURS FOR RE-SALE: To be legalised.

CONVEYANCE OF ELECTORS: Proposed prohibition of use of cars for conveying electors to the poll. Proposal that cars may be loaned to Returning Officer for use at his discretion disapproved.

RELAYING OF SPEECHES: Cost to be borne proportionately by every candidate utilizing facilities. No person other than candidates or agents to make use of relaying facilities.

BROADCASTING: To be prohibited except under B.B.C. arrangement.

TREATING: Law to be amended in order that corrupt intent should be presumed where it is shown that food or drink is given away at election times.

LICENSED PREMISES: To be closed on polling day in Parliamentary election.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY ON POLLING DAY: Not approved.

USE OF LICENSED PREMISES FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: To be prohibited.

USE OF POLITICAL CLUBS IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS FOR MEETING AND COMMITTEE ROOM PURPOSES: To be prohibited and brought into line with Local Government procedure.

APPRECIATION.

A reader writes:—"Many thanks for the copy of your April issue just received. If not always acknowledged I must express my appreciation of this very useful publication. There is nothing like it elsewhere."

The above is a sample of the bulk. We have received hundreds like it!



YOUTH!

This Month's Article:
PROPAGANDA
and
PLEASURE

By W. ARTHUR PEACOCK
 Editor: "The Clarion."

The winter season is over. "Summer time" has come. We have put on our clocks and eagerly look forward to brighter days. It is necessary for Leagues to think about their activities. On hot evenings members will not want to come into dull meeting rooms to discuss business. They will be keen to spend as much time as possible in the open air. Members must arrange activities that will keep them in touch with each other throughout the summer and which will permit the work of the League to be carried on in some form. In other words an effort must be made to combine pleasure with propaganda.

The London Committee announces it is arranging for its Summer Camp in Sussex this year. This is becoming an annual event which is eagerly looked for by the members. Surrey Federation has gone a step further. It has established a permanent camp and is full of confidence regarding its success. There is undoubtedly tremendous enjoyment to be gained from camping and Leagues of Youth will do well to take it up. It is not a cheap business as some folks imagine. Good tents, good stoves and good camping equipment generally, cost money. There are plenty of alluring advertisements offering goods at low prices but the payment of a few extra shillings is often worth while. By means of contributions from funds or collections branches should be able to organise a camp on a small scale. This is preferable, I think, to everybody getting their own equipment.

Campers are a much attacked body of people just now. They are accused often of destroying the countryside. I do know of camping grounds which are a disgrace but this arises from haphazard organisation. On the whole I do not think campers are worse than any other class in the community. While, as a camper, I regard as libellous the charge that we leave litter behind us I do feel that there are some folk who are not as tidy as they might be. I hope League members will see that when they end their camp they do not leave behind them a crowd of bottles and stacks of waste paper.

Cycling is another form of activity that may be encouraged at this time of year. It should be possible to arrange inter-runs with clubs attached to other branches or for visits to be paid to various districts, and interchange of views to take place. There is, of course, the National Clarion Cycling Club—a national Socialist organisation—which invites the affiliation of Socialist cycling clubs and which offers special facilities by way of insurance, etc., to cyclists. Full information can be had from Ernest Sugden, Billinghay, Parkinson Lane, Halifax. Write to him. But while Mr. Sugden will doubtless be glad to give cyclists this information he probably will be too shy to mention that the N.C.C.C. has done tremendous work for Socialism. Before the war, particularly, its members went out into the backward villages holding meetings and distributing leaflets. Thousands of people first heard of Socialism as the result

of their propaganda. I think some of the members of the League of Youth might follow their example.

Rambles are also a form of activity that is very popular with many branches. The railway companies now offer many cheap facilities to rambles and secretaries will be wise in securing particulars of these. It should be possible for branch business to be dealt with on these outings should necessity arise.

Doubtless there are many other things which League members can do during the summer. Tennis, cricket, swimming are sports which the majority of members engage in and the organisation of clubs in connection with the branch is certain to be productive of good results. But whatever arrangements are made the great thing to ensure is that members are not lost during the summer months. The League of Youth must so organise its activities that they will appeal to all types within its ranks.

SURREY LEAGUE OF YOUTH SETS UP A CAMPING SITE.

During 1928-29 the Surrey Federation of the League of Youth arranged rambles as a regular feature in various parts of their area, leaders being found from Leagues in each locality and members coming from almost every League. The Federation being but young (formed in September, 1928) did not venture on a large scale during the summer of 1929, but arranged for a number of its members to join the adjoining County Federation of London at their annual camp, held at Witherham, which the joint forces found a great success.

As the winter months drew on the setting up of a rambling and a camping section took definite form, and a sub-committee was appointed. A ramble each month was held during the season of rain, wind and snow, and being keen and somewhat tested people they drew up a scheme for a standing camp—their requirements being forty members willing to pay a subscription of 10s. by March 1st, 1930, in return for which those members would be able to use the camp and receive special consideration both during the coming season and a reduced subscription during the second season, if any. Forty have not all rolled up yet, but sufficient to get going have. A piece of land has been rented—two bell tents have been purchased and the necessary cooking

equipment. The scale of fees for week-ends, including food, is as follows:—

Foundation Members, 3s. 6d.

Labour League of Youth Members, 4s. 6d.

Members' friends, 5s. 6d.

(Correspondingly higher fees at Bank Holidays.)

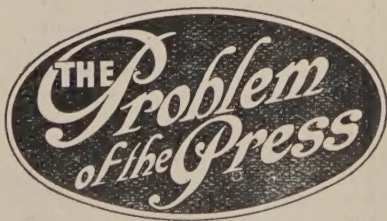
The camper needs to bring ground sheet, blankets, mug, plate, knife and fork, washing kit, etc., and suitable musical instruments are welcomed.

The camp site is at Albury, which lies between Guildford and Dorking, in one of the most glorious parts of Surrey, not far from one of the old Pilgrims' Ways. Coming from London or from Surrey towns approach may be made by delightful routes, where one may meander, or a quick journey may be made by train and bus.

The camp was opened on April 5th, and campers are expected every week-end from now on. Those wishing to stay should notify the Hon. Secretary by the Wednesday previous, so that the Guildford Co-op. may send the necessary provender. London and provincial leaguers will be welcomed, and if all goes well we shall be able to offer a choice of Surrey sites next season.

Further information from the Hon. Secretary, John L. Fyelman, 68, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

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LOCAL LABOUR PARTY ACCOUNTS

A System of Book-keeping.

To suggest an entirely uniform system of book-keeping for every class of Local Labour Party is well nigh an impossibility for the transactions and character of Local Labour Parties differ in an extraordinary manner. There are for instance Local Parties whose income and expenditure is simplicity itself, and the total will perhaps not exceed £10 or £20 in a year. There are other Parties with numerous ramifications and activities, some of them of a trading description, whose turnover runs well into four figures—we have yet to hear of the Local Party with a turnover of five figures.

It is of course true that certain principles of book-keeping apply to every kind of business and all records of financial transactions, but the system and form differ according to the nature of the business. We shall, therefore, endeavour to lay before our readers a system of account-keeping specially suited to Local Labour Party needs but adaptable to many differences of circumstance which exist.

In this first article we shall confine our attention to members' contributions and the method by which records of them should be kept. Here at the outset we are met by the fact that the amount of intermediary book-keeping varies according to the nature of the Division, or rather the nature of its organisation. That is to say a Borough Labour Party may in some cases be in direct touch with its collectors and therefore the contents of the Secretaries' or the Collectors' books are directly entered into the accounts of the Divisional Party; in other Divisions there may be interposed between the collector and the Divisional Party a Ward Committee and a Local Labour Party, or an Individual Members' Section, a Ward Committee and a Local Labour Party; and in certain Divisions some of these steps are jumped.

It would simplify matters if in every Division the system were adopted of first entering all members' contributions in special contributions books, whether the contributions are collected by collectors or paid direct to the Ward, Local Labour Party or Divisional Secretary. We know that in some Divisions members' contributions are paid direct to the financial secretary at

any old time, and they are entered up promiscuously with the rest of the income. Our proposal is that this system should cease and that a contribution book or books should in every case be first used.

We shall here probably be met with the objection that the contributions differ from constituency to constituency. Some constituencies, a fast disappearing lot, adhere to the old minimum contributions. Others, and a rapidly growing number, have definitely adopted the penny per week scheme, while there are other constituencies which, while still retaining the old minimums, have added to it a voluntary regular contribution scheme. It might be asked how a uniform contribution book would apply to this variety of circumstances.

A glance at the specimen contribution book we have illustrated on page 86 will show the feasibility of working in all these methods on a standard book. Even with shilling a year membership the contributions will not all be paid in the same week or month, of the year, and the weekly or monthly and quarterly totals and records are just as necessary with this type of membership as with the more productive contributions. With regard to the difference between the system of a regular contribution and that of an annual contribution plus voluntary payments, the distinction is not one of book-keeping at all. There is no difference whatever that concerns the contribution book and we think exactly the same type of book is desirable.

The next point concerns the particulars concerning a member which are to be entered in the book. The prepared contribution book should give certain necessary particulars of those from whom money is to be collected, and the nature of this evidence in the contribution book can be such as to encourage the collector and give him certain facilities. Thus in our specimen page we give the year of a person's first entrance into individual membership. Perhaps this cannot be filled in in all cases, but a little thought will show that this information is a powerful weapon in the hands of a collector bent on increasing the income.

(Continued on page 87.)

[SPECIMEN]

CONTRIBUTION BOOK—YEAR 1930.

D.L.P. GOODSHIRE.

Local Party or Ward Committee GOODTOWN EAST.

Collector A. PUSHFULMAN.

Year Mem- ber joined	Member's Name.	Member's Name and Address.	Contri- bution payable and how payable, to date.	Total paid this year to date.	Contributions Paid.												Total paid this year to date.
					Ap. 5	Ap. 12	Ap. 19	Ap. 26	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31	June 7	June 14	June 21	
1926	A. Jones	1, Alma Street, Goodtown	1d. W.	1/1	1	1			3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2/2
1930	B. Ellis	6 Exe Street, ditto	2/- Y.	2/-													2/-
1929	C. Jevons	4 Alma Street, ditto	6d. M.	1/6	6			6						6	6		3/6
1928	D. Robinson	9 Alma Street, ditto	2d. F.	2/2	2	2	2			2			4		2		3/2
1930	E. Evans	5 Exe Street, ditto	10/- Y.	Nil						10/-							10/-
1929	F. Evans	Ditto	1/- W. (for 20 weeks)	5/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	1/-	18/-
Note.—For convenience of printing faint cross-lines are omitted in this speci- men.																	
WEEKLY TOTALS			1/7	1/3	1/-	1/2	1/9	11/3	1/1	1/-	1/-	1/5	1/1	1/9	1/7		

Note to Collector: Members' names
should be kept as far as practicable in
street or walking order.

COLLECTOR'S CASH ACCOUNT.

NOTE.—Where this book is used as the contribution book of a local section or committee, and not by a collector, the commission column may be used for the proportion of members' contributions that may be retained locally.

Month.	Total collected.	Commission or other deductions	Net cash paid in.	Received by
<i>April</i> ..	5/-	1/-	4/-	<i>A. Law (Treasurer, G. E. Local Party.)</i>
<i>May</i> ..	15/1			
<i>June</i> ..	5/10	4/2	16/9	<i>A. Law (Treas., Goodtown East L.P.)</i>

(Continued from page 85.)

The other information is the names and addresses of the members and the amount the persons have promised to pay annually. This will be entered from the member's application form, or varied according to verbal promises secured. It will be noted there is no column for arrears and we have substituted a column at the end and commencement of each period to show the total contributions paid for the year to date.

Now there is good sense in this. Payment of arrears cannot be insisted upon in the same way as arrears on insurance policies, rent or other weekly payments. With many persons a statement of what they have already paid during the year is more inducive to further effort than a claim for arrears!

The size of the contribution book is the next point. We should like to see a standard book printed with the headings and rulings we have given, which need not be very much larger than our own pages. This would be handy for the pocket and whether the

contributions were taken by the collectors at the members' homes, in the factory, or received at meetings the book would be equally adaptable. In the meantime collectors' books, roughly about this size, and with very similar rulings can be obtained at most good stationers.

Now a word as to the totals at the foot. It will be noted that space is provided for a weekly, monthly and quarterly total. The intention is that the collector should pay in at arranged intervals, whether weekly, monthly or quarterly, when the amount taken from him would be initialled by the officer receiving same who would enter the lump sum in his own cashbook. Collectors' books specially made could have the last two pages specially printed for totals with a column for the signature of the person receiving the collector's cash. These specially printed pages, which we strongly advise, could also be used for an account of commission. A sample of the ruling required is given above.

(To be continued.)

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

Editor-Manager : H. DRINKWATER, Ladywood, Fernhill Heath,
Nr. Worcester.

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The "L.O." Guide to Local Government Elections

PART III.—METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

London's Government.

London's Local Government machinery, although modelled on that for the rest of the country differs considerably in detail.

The Local Government Act of 1888 was a landmark which brought into being the administrative County of London. The older area of the Metropolis was then enlarged and the largest and most powerful County Council in the country came into being.

In 1899 a Tory Government, somewhat alarmed at the earliest proceedings of the L.C.C., completed its "re-organisation" of Local Government by enacting the London Government Act. The Local Government Act 1894 had not extended the system of District Councils to London, and the Metropolis was still governed in part by a system of vestries and district boards. The Act of 1899 swept away these bodies and established in their places twenty-eight Metropolitan Borough Councils. These Councils differ materially in size, but they form a class of Local Governing body standing by itself. They have not the status of Borough Councils, established under the Municipal Corporations Act of 1882 (in that respect they are a little lower than the angels), but their powers and status are superior to the Urban and Rural District Councils set up for the rest of the country.

It is outside our province to comment on how far London's special Local Government machinery has proved adaptable to its special case, but the growth of the population centred round London and the establishment of newer boroughs on its fringe, with interests, in many matters, identical with their neighbours, alone seems to call for a fresh overhaul of the position. When such revision takes place the relationships between the L.C.C. and the Borough Councils will certainly call for amendment, particularly we think in the matter of rating.

The Borough Council.

Metropolitan Borough Councils each consist of a mayor, aldermen and councillors. The number of councillors for each has been fixed by Order in Council. The number of aldermen is one-sixth the number of councillors.

The mayor and aldermen may be qualified and re-elected in like manner to the chairman and aldermen of a County Council, there being in these matters little difference either in qualification or method of election to the practices with regard to Borough Councils. A Peer, however, is not disqualified, and there is the little difference that a Metropolitan mayor is not merely a Justice of the Peace for his Borough, but becomes during his term of office a Justice of the Peace for the County of London.

In every third year one half the whole number of aldermen are to go out of office, and their places are to be filled by election, the half to go out being those who have been aldermen for the longest time without re-election. The election of aldermen takes place immediately after the election of mayor and the latter may vote in the election. Formerly outgoing aldermen only were prohibited from voting in the election of aldermen, but since 1910 no alderman, "as such," may vote. If the mayor votes he of course votes as mayor and not as alderman, though he may be both an alderman and mayor.

Councillors' Elections.

Elections of councillors are now triennial, although it is feasible under the London Government Act, 1899, for a third of the councillors to retire annually as in the case of municipal councils in the rest of the country. The present triennial elections were provided for by an Order in Council dated June 14th, 1901, this Order providing that the Councillors in all the Metropolitan Boroughs should retire together in every third year commencing with

November 1st, 1903.* These elections will therefore take place again this year.

It will be noted that in the case of Metropolitan Borough Councils the power to direct triennial elections is vested in the Ministry. Such power is, however, vested in the County Council in the case of Urban and Rural Councils.

The election of councillors is by Section 2 (5) of the Act to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1894. This is an advantage to candidates and practitioners, because elections conducted under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, have the disadvantage of more antiquated procedure. Rules are framed under the L.G. Act, 1894, and most of the details of elections are provided for therein. The rules now in force are those prescribed by the Metropolitan Borough Councils Election Order, 1903 (Statutory Rules and Order, 1903, No. 160). An amendment of the nomination form and certain minor matters was, however, made by the Local Elections

* Interesting light on how the present position as to triennial elections arose is given us by Mr. D. H. Daines, Acting Secretary of the London Labour Party, who writes as follows:—

The London County Council was in favour of the triennial retirement of Metropolitan Borough Councillors, but although it failed to get the London Government Bill, 1899, amended in the manner proposed, an amendment was secured enabling the Borough Councils to pass resolutions (by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at special meetings convened for the purpose), and empowering the Local Government Board to make an Order in respect of a Borough in which this condition was fulfilled directing that the whole of the councillors should retire together on the ordinary day of election in every third year. (See Section 2 (8) of the London Government Act, 1899.)

Resolutions were passed by all the Metropolitan Borough Councils in the prescribed manner, and on 14th June, 1901, the Local Government Board made an Order directing that the whole of the councillors of each of the Metropolitan Boroughs should retire together on 1st November, 1903, and on the ordinary day of election in every third year thereafter.

Alteration of Rules Order, 1925 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1925, No. 30).

Qualifications.

A person is qualified to be elected a councillor who—

1. is at the time of election "qualified to elect to the office of Councillor."

This though generally taken to mean any Local Government elector does not precisely mean that. A person must be registered and qualified to be registered, to be "entitled" to elect. Non-residence in the borough for six months terminates this qualification and creates a vacancy unless the councillor possessed some other qualification on election.

2. has resided within the Borough during the whole of the twelve months preceding the election.
3. is the owner of property held by freehold, copyhold, leasehold or any other tenure within the Borough.
4. is enrolled and entitled to be enrolled as a Local Government elector and in the case of a Borough with four or more wards is seized or possessed of real or personal property, or both to the value or amount of one thousand pounds, or is rated to the poor rate in the Borough on the annual value of thirty pounds. In the case of any other Borough the person must be seized or possessed, etc., of five hundred pounds or rated to the poor rate in the Borough on fifteen pounds.

The fourth qualification mentioned here, although the earliest enacted is in practice only a very occasional means by which qualification is obtained.

Disqualifications.

Disqualification for being elected or being a member of a Metropolitan Borough Council may arise, i.e., either because of a penal enactment or because the person falls under a ban imposed by Section 46 of the Local Government Act, 1894. The penal enactments will affect those deemed or adjudged incapable of holding office under the Corrupt Practices Acts (in which case the penalty may be only for a term of years); persons disqualified under the Felony Acts; and persons disqualified under the Bankruptcy Acts.

Section 46 L.G. Act, 1894, extends the two last-mentioned disqualifications and imposes others. The Section reads as follows:—

"A person shall be disqualified for being elected or being a member or

chairman of a council of a parish or of a district other than a borough or of a board of guardians if he—

- (a) Is an infant or an alien; or
 - (b) Has within twelve months before his election, or since his election, received union or parochial relief; or
 - (c) Has, within five years before his election or since his election, been convicted either on indictment or summarily of any crime, and sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, without the option of a fine, or to any greater punishment, and has not received a free pardon, or has, within or during the time aforesaid, been adjudged bankrupt, or made a composition or arrangement with his creditors or
 - (d) Holds any paid office under the parish council or district council or board of guardians, as the case may be; or
 - (e) Is concerned in any bargain or contract entered into with the council or board, or participates in the profit of any such bargain or contract or of any work done under the authority of the council or board.
- (2) Provided that a person shall not be disqualified for being elected or being a member or chairman of any such council or board by reason of being interested—
- (a) In the sale or lease of any lands or in any loan of money to the council or board, or in any contract with the council for the supply of land, of which he is owner or occupier, of stone, gravel, or other materials for making or repairing highways or bridges, or in the transport of materials for the repair of roads or bridges in his own immediate neighbourhood; or
 - (b) In any newspaper in which any advertisement relating to the affairs of the council or board is inserted; or
 - (c) In any contract with the council or board as a shareholder in any joint stock company; but he shall not vote at any meeting of the council or board on any question in which such company are interested, except that in the case of a water company or other company established for the carrying on of works of a like public nature, this prohibition may be

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(4) Where a person is disqualified by being adjudged bankrupt or making a composition or arrangement with his creditors, the disqualification shall cease, in case of bankruptcy, when the adjudication is annulled, or when he obtains his discharge with a certificate that his bankruptcy was caused by misfortune without any misconduct on his part, in case of composition or arrangement, on payment of his debts in full.

(6) If a member of a council of a parish, or of a district other than a borough, or of a board of guardians, is absent from meetings of the council or board for more than six months consecutively, except in case of illness or for some reason approved by the council or board, his office shall on the expiration of those months become vacant.

(7) Where a member of a council or board of guardians becomes disqualified for holding office, or vacates his seat for absence, the council or board shall forthwith declare the office to be vacant, and signify the same by notice signed by three members and countersigned by the clerk of the council or board, and notified in such manner as the council or board direct, and the office shall thereupon become vacant.

(8) If any person acts when disqualified, or votes when prohibited under this section, he shall for each offence be liable on summary conviction

to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds."

In applying the above section to Metropolitan Borough elections the appropriate alterations must be made.

Our readers will probably be surprised at the liberty of contract with the Borough Council which appears to be allowed. Sub-section 2 contains an enlargement which is not to be found in provisions applying to Provincial Borough Councils, and the extension was probably designed to meet circumstances in Rural Areas. Nevertheless the statute applies this clause to Metropolitan Borough Councils, and on the face of it there would appear to be a greater liberty of contract here than in the case of provincial councils.

The prohibition relating to receipt of relief was amended by the Local Government Act, 1929. As will be seen above a person in receipt of relief of *any kind* was hitherto disqualified from membership, but by virtue of Section 10 of the last-mentioned Act a person is not now disqualified "by reason only that he or a member of his family has received medical or surgical treatment or been an inmate of an institution for that purpose or received relief which could have been granted under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, or been maintained in any place as a pauper lunatic."

Ordinary elections will take place on the 1st November in each year. The dates of proceedings prior to the election are laid down in the Statutory Rules and Orders and are as follow:—

TIMES FOR THE PROCEEDINGS AT ANY ELECTION OF A BOROUGH COUNCILOR
OR BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

PROCEEDING.	TIME.
1.	2.
1. Notice of Election	Not later than sixteen clear days before the day of election (<i>i.e.</i> , in an ordinary election not later than 15th October).
2. Receipt of Nomination Papers ...	Not later than twelve o'clock at noon on the twelfth day before the day of Election.
3. Sending notice of decision as to validity of Nomination Papers and making out Statement as to persons nominated	Not later than the eleventh day before the day of Election.
4. Withdrawal of Candidates ...	Not later than twelve o'clock at noon on the eighth day before the day of Election.
5. Notice of Poll	Two clear days at least before the day of Election.

(To be continued.)



QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

I.L.P. Affiliations.

Question. Two correspondents have recently written us concerning friction with I.L.P. Branches in their areas. In the first place an I.L.P. Branch has been formed and is stated to be carrying on active work, quite independently of the Local Party, and without offering to affiliate. It is in fact working as an entirely separate and critical political Party. In the second place the circumstances are almost exactly opposite and here an I.L.P. exists which expresses its desire to affiliate. The Local Labour Party, however, does not desire the affiliation and independent working is going on as a consequence of this attitude. In both cases we are asked to give some guidance in the situation and to say what we think of the present relationship between the two organisations.

Answer. We are afraid we must decline the invitation so naively extended to us by our correspondents to get ourselves into hot water. It is outside the province of this journal either to comment upon questions of policy or to accentuate differences within the Party. At no time within our memory has the Labour Party been entirely free from differences and serious differences at that, nor do we anticipate any time when the Party will all be of one mind. The position so far as we are concerned is that at the present time the Independent Labour Party is a nationally organised organisation and the business of most of our readers is to make the alliance, on which our Party is based, work. That being so the Local Labour Party which is refusing affiliation to the Local I.L.P. Branch is wrong and the other I.L.P. Branch which declines to affiliate is equally wrong. Those of our friends on either side who are trying to anticipate a changed national relationship are exceeding their rights, and at the present time it is proper

both to accept affiliation and to insist on affiliation.

Prices of Printing Blocks.

Question. Dear Mr. Editor: I have recently had a number of blocks made to go in the programme of our summer gala. The blocks are all different sizes and shapes, and some are quite small. I have been surprised at the bill received, and it will be a lesson to me in future when ordering printing blocks. At the same time I should like to be sure that I have not been paying too much. Can a printer charge what he likes in these matters or is there any regular price based on sizes? Your answer in the next issue of the *Labour Organiser* will much oblige.

Answer. A little elementary knowledge when ordering printing blocks is a useful thing. Our friend gives no indication of the subjects or nature of the material from which his blocks were made, though this is important information. It is not always quite the best thing to go to the printer and hand him a photograph asking him to make a block. Printers have to live, and the percentage allowed them by block makers is not over large; hence when the printer has to consider the credit he gives (and possibly discount) he is tempted to clap a substantial percentage on the price the block maker would charge.

For a number of years the Federation of Master Process Engravers has maintained a schedule of minimum prices, and the schedule itself is a pretty complicated document, most of which is outside the understanding of the non-technical individual. We can, however, give our friend some light on the charges he ought to pay. As mentioned, however, the *subject* from which a block is to be made is very important. The charges made may cover an original photograph; or, if there is excess-

sive reduction, *i.e.*, if the block is to be made very much smaller than the original photograph, the price is increased 50 per cent. An original may also require artist's work which is fairly expensive, and on which no standard can be based.

The usual kind of block, and the one used in the publication our correspondent sends us, is what is known as a half-tone process block for use with one colour printing. The charges mentioned below do not of course apply to half-tones made for two, three or four colour printing. Most of our readers will understand, too, that the price of a half-tone depends not only on size but on the "screen." The coarse screen, *i.e.*, containing less number of dots to the square inch, will be cheaper than a fine screen. The coarse screen being suitable for common paper the fine

screen being made for better work and paper. Ordinary charges are based on so much per square inch and there is a minimum charge for any size of block as will be seen from the scale below :—

There is a similar scale for line work, *i.e.*, engraving and where the half-tone consists partly of etching and partly of half-tone (photographic) work there is a substantially higher scale.

Where the job is not to make an original block, but to reproduce an additional one from an existing block "stereos" or "electros" may be used and these are substantially cheaper. Firms vary a good deal however, both in their prices for stereos and for other blocks, for it must be remembered that the prices mentioned are minimums not maximums. The minimum for a stereo is ordinarily 1/8 and for an electro 2/6.

	65 screen or coarser	Over 65 up to 85 screen
	Per sq. in. Minimum.	Per sq. in. Minimum.
On Zinc—Squared up	7d. 8/2	8d. 9/4
Circles or Ovals	8d. 9/4	9d. 10/6
Vignettes or Cut-Outs	10d. 11/8	11d. 12/10

On Zinc finer than 85 screen, same price as Copper.

On Copper, any screen up to 150 :—	Per sq. in.	Minimum.
Squared up	11d.	12/10
Circles and Ovals	1/1	15/2
Vignettes and/or Cut-Outs (simple)	1/4	18/8
Vignettes and/or Cut-Outs (intricate)	1/8	23/4
Deep etched, <i>i.e.</i> , pencil work, etc.	1/10	25/8
Intaglio	2/-	28/-

Work in finer screens than 150, 1½d. per sq. in. extra.

REGISTRATION: HOME OFFICE CIRCULAR.

The following circular covering a number of important matters, was recently issued to Registration Officers:

I am directed by the Secretary of State to refer to certain matters in connection with the preparation of the Register of Electors and the Jurors Book in the present year.

1. REGISTRATION DATES.

[These have already appeared in the "L.O."—EDITOR.]

The dates until which documents are to be kept published are set out in Schedule IX. in the Representation of the People Order, R.P. 134. The last day for claims by out-voters in a county constituency or a district of boroughs* is the 18th August. The Register comes into force on 15th October next.

* NOTE.—There are no District Boroughs in England. There are a number in Scotland and one (Carnarvon) in Wales.—ED., "L.O."

2. THE INQUIRY.

It is essential that a complete canvass should be made throughout the registration area to ascertain the names of persons qualified to be registered as electors. Every occupier should, as directed in the Circular of 14th January last, also be supplied with the appropriate Form of A. or D., and the information contained in the Return will be used for the purpose of supplementing and verifying the particulars obtained by the canvassers. In the delivery of the Forms regard should be had to the remarks under Heading 2 of the Circular of 8th October, 1926, R.P. 137.

It may be mentioned that on the occasion of the preparation of the current Register, some occupiers in a few districts, owing to a misapprehension of the instructions, were not supplied with Forms of Return; it is important that the Registration Officer should make such staff arrangements as will ensure that every occupier is supplied with a Form.

3. THE ELECTORS LISTS.

The electors lists will be in the same form as for previous Registers.

The special form of title page which owing to the change of qualifications and index letters was suggested in the Circular R.P.137 for the electors lists for the current Register will not of course be applicable as the same index letters will be used in List B as in the current Register.

4. BUSINESS PREMISES; "YEARLY VALUE."

I am to draw your attention to the adaptation made by section 80 of the Local Government Act, 1929, in the provisions of section 41 (9) of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, relating to the ascertainment of the 'yearly value' of business premises for the purposes of the franchise. The yearly value is now to be taken as the gross value appearing in the valuation list or, if no gross value is given therein, as the gross value for income tax purposes; any necessary apportionment in either case being made by the Registration Officer. Where, however, there are no such gross values, *e.g.*, in the case of open mines and quarries, the Registration Officer must determine what would have been the gross value for rating purposes under the enactments relating to rating and valuation in force on 6th February, 1918.

Power is given to Registration Officers by section 81 of the Act of 1929 to obtain from the surveyors of taxes copies of annual values for the time being in force for purposes of income tax, but it is apprehended that only in very exceptional cases will such returns be found necessary.

5. NAVAL OR MILITARY VOTERS.

The procedure for the registration of naval or military voters remains as heretofore. Notice in R.P.124 will be sent to any voter who appears to be qualified for an address if he is not already registered therefor, but until the receipt from the voter of a statement of his qualification for that address no steps for his actual registration will be taken.

In future, any claims by soldiers on R.P.28 to be registered in respect of actual residence qualifications will be sent to the Registration Officer by the Army Record Offices. It is requested that, following the practice of notifying the Admiralty in the cases of naval ratings, the Registration Officer will inform the appropriate Record Office

of every case where he expunges the name of a soldier owing to his having claimed registration for actual residence, or where he proposes to register a man for actual residence or removes from the Register the name of a man so registered.

The Admiralty desire in future that, whenever the official number of a rating is quoted, his Port Division should be indicated. It will therefore be necessary to distinguish in the absent voters' list the *dépôt* to which each rating is attached, as is now done for Royal Marines. In the case of the Marines, the following letters are already in use:—

Ch=Royal Marine Division,
Chatham.

Po=Royal Marine Division,
Portsmouth.

Ply=Royal Marine Division,
Plymouth.

Dépôt=Depôt, Royal Marines, Deal.

The following letters are intended to be used for the Naval Dépôts:—

C=Royal Naval Depôt, Chatham.

P= " " " Portsmouth.

D= " " " Devonport.

It is desired that the Registration Officer will arrange that these letters when prefixed to the official numbers of the men in their statements of qualification are recorded in the absent voters list. The numbers should be quoted as follows:—

P/J 13900, C/K 58701, D/J 131463.

6. JURORS.

The procedure prescribed by the Juries Act, 1922, and the Juries Order, 1927, for marking in the electors lists the names of persons qualified and liable to serve as jurors or special jurors remains unaltered.

7. FORM OF REGISTER: ABOLITION OF GUARDIANS.

As the poor law union has ceased to be a local governmental electoral area for the purpose of the local government franchise some changes are required in the form of the Register of Electors for municipal and metropolitan boroughs and urban districts. In a county borough, an elector can be registered in one ward only of the borough for borough council elections and, although hitherto he may also have been registered in respect of qualifications in other wards for the election of guardians, the entries relating to these wards will now be expunged, and no marks against names will be required. Similarly in a non-county borough the

entry in one ward only will be retained, and no marks against names will be required unless, owing to the borough being comprised in two or more county electoral divisions, the voter must be registered for the purpose of elections of county councillors in more than one ward; in that case the appropriate mark that the elector cannot vote at elections of borough councillors for the entry should be inserted against all the entries except the one selected by him for those elections. For elections of metropolitan borough and urban district councillors, an elector can be registered in each ward in which he has a qualification, but in some cases the wards or parishes for which guardians were elected have differed from the wards for the election of councillors, and in such cases entries retained for the purpose of the election of guardians only or marks denoting that the elector cannot vote for an entry at elections of guardians will be expunged.

The second note on the title page of the Register referring to the mark denoting that persons cannot vote in respect of an entry at an election of guardians will be omitted in all registers relating to municipal and metropolitan boroughs and urban districts.

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LONDON AGENTS' PRESENTATION TO MR. R. T. WINDLE.

A very pleasant function was held at the National Labour Club, Romney Street, S.W.1, on Saturday, April 12th, when the London District of the Labour Agents' Association entertained Mr. R. T. Windle to dinner and made him a presentation of a fountain pen and pencil set.

MAKING THE PRESENTATION

Mr. Frank Organ occupied the chair at the dinner and the presentation was made by Mr. H. J. Hamilton Cardwell in an exceedingly clever and witty speech, in which he spoke of the part played by Mr. Windle in the building up of the London Labour Movement since the war, and referred to him as the "big brother" of the London Labour agents. One of his brightest descriptions was of Mr. William Barefoot as "not an agent at all, but an animated institution."

After the speeches the company adjourned to the lounge, where a concert was held under the direction of Mr. W. Crews, of Walthamstow. An unrehearsed item was the rendering of "Land of My Fathers" by Mr. Glyn Evans, of Greenwich, alleged to be in the original Welsh. — From *The London News*.

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